[1st November 1962]

Railway lines between Tuticorin and Tiruchendur.

* 213 *Q.*—SRI J. PONNUSWAMY VILLAVARAYAR : Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Works be pleased to state whether there is any proposal to recommend to the Central Government to link directly the railway lines between Tuticorin and Tiruchendur? 3-20 p.m.

THE HON. SRI V. RAMAIAH : (*a*) No, Sir.

Village Officers

* 214 *Q.*—SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Industries be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether any representations have been received recently on behalf of the village officers of the Thanjavur district ; and

(*b*) if so, what they are and the action taken or proposed to be taken thereon ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : (*a*) Yes, Sir.

(*b*) The Association has made 23 requests and they are under consideration of the Government.

SRI S. K. SAMBANDHAN : Sir, is there any demand from them to make the posts of village officers the same as those of other regular Government servants ?

THE HON. SRI R. VENKATARAMAN : Sir, I have got a printed memorandum containing 23 demands. Since they are under examination, the matter can be raised later.

Election of Mayors

* 215 *Q.*—DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Municipal Administration be pleased to state whether there is any communal rotation in the election of Mayors in the Corporation of Madras, and, if so, the reasons therefor?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : A convention was established by the Madras Corporation Council in 1930 which has since been in vogue. The object was to eliminate canvassing which had characterised the election of President.

DR. A. SREENIVASAN : Sir, is it a fact that this pernicious communal rotation came into existence due to political exigencies in those days, and as those exigencies do not exist today, do the Government consider it advisable to remove this communal rotation in the interests of the parties concerned, that is, the aspirants for Mayorality who go about canvassing sympathy from the particular community at the time of election ?

THE HON. SRI S. M. A. MAJID : This convention was approved by the Corporation Council, and has been in vogue for the past 32 years. The hon. Member may know this. The matter